

Dear Sirs:

RE: Support of RM-11305

I would like to state my strong opposition to restrictions on the amateur bands that would curtail, or eliminate the use of Amplitude Modulation. AM telephony is an historic part of Amateur Radio and therefore is part of our ham radio heritage. The argument against AM chiefly has to do with the amount of bandwidth it consumes, usually around 6 khz. If AM used 3 khz or less there would be no discussion or contention. While it's true AM takes up more bandwidth, it is also true that AM operation is but a small part of the overall amateur radio experience. AM is principally found in small informal "windows" typically 10 khz wide on each band. Occasionally, AM is found in other parts of the spectrum; but the plain truth is that SSB operation and other modes predominate over the airwaves and will continue to eclipse AM. Furthermore, there is plenty of spectrum to go around for all. AM operators are a nostalgic and small lot for the most part. They restore vintage transmitters and receivers and keep our history alive. They also spend quite a lot of money often in the process and funnel this same money into the ham radio economy keeping it 'alive' as well. It is akin to spending thousands of dollars restoring an old car like a 55 Chevy and afterwards being criticized for the pollution, the automobile causes. When displaying amateur radio to non-hams in an effort to solicit their interest and perhaps get them to venture into this wonderful hobby the most impressive mode is AM because of the warm, smooth way it sounds - which brings me to another point:

It seems to me we would want to keep the momentum going and try to entice non-hams into the hobby and at the same time promulgate ham radio's diversity by offering ALL modes of communication. One of the allures of this hobby is diversity. From EMF to QRP it is all there for the waiting. A mode is available that matches every amateur operator's, or soon-to-be amateur operator's personality and purse. It is a fact that this entire hobby is dying because of a lack of interest on the part of youngsters who choose to pursue other interests. Why restrict certain operation modes at a critical time such as this? The average age of a ham operator is 50 years old, or more. If we start down the dangerous road of restricting certain forms of communication, how can we ever expect any 'new blood' to enter our hobby?

Regards,

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